



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held January 13, 2009, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Knabe:

“The County of Los Angeles currently has a budget in excess of \$23 billion and employs over 100,000 people spread across hundreds of buildings and facilities, making the County the largest employer in Southern California. Given the role of the County of Los Angeles as the largest employer and largest provider of local government services in the region, the County is also one of the largest consumers of electricity and other utilities in California. The County’s current costs for utilities are nearly \$200 million every year, including approximately \$20 million a year for water and electricity in the Department of Parks and Recreation, \$30 million to power streetlights and waterworks under the Department of Public Works, and the remaining \$150 million for utility costs in other County facilities.

“Currently, the production of electricity is the leading cause of industrial air pollution in the United States since most of this energy production comes from coal and fossil fuel power plants. For example, according to current Environmental Protection Agency data, electricity generation in the United States is responsible for 38% of the nation’s carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas contributor, 66% of the nation’s sulfur dioxide, which causes acid rain, and 40% of the nation’s mercury, which contributes to contamination of soils and waterways.

“Recognizing the damaging environmental impacts of many types of fossil fuel-powered electricity generation, dozens of the nation’s largest corporations are making investments in renewable energy generation in order to produce and consume electricity with fewer environmental impacts. As the nation’s largest County, Los Angeles County should begin investigating the viability of purchasing renewable energy as a way to offset the environmental impacts of the County’s substantial electricity needs.”

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Therefore, Supervisor Knabe made a motion that the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Directors of Internal Services and Public Works, take the following actions:

1. Examine the practicality of Los Angeles County offsetting a minimum of 10% up to as much as 100% of our current annual electrical needs through the use of renewable energy with the research to include the viability of the County purchasing renewable energy credits and the use of renewable energy, which shifts the amount of conventional electricity generation required away from fuels like natural gas, coal and oil; and
2. Report back to the Board within 90 days on the County's current annual energy usage and costs, along with options for the County to begin purchasing renewable energy.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“Over the last several years, the Board of Supervisors has introduced a wide variety of initiatives to improve the health of the environment and the related well-being of County residents. These initiatives have included: the adoption of comprehensive green building requirements for both public and private buildings in the County's jurisdiction; a goal of reducing the County's energy use by 20% by 2015; joining the Cool Counties Initiative to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050; engaging in efforts to increase recycling rates; purchasing environmentally responsible products; procuring more fuel-efficient vehicles; and reducing the use of disposable plastic bags and Styrofoam.

“The Board should ensure that the initiatives proposed in today's motion are addressed within the context of ongoing County efforts in this area.”

Therefore, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion that Supervisor Knabe's motion be amended to also instruct the Chief Executive Officer to include an analysis of how the use of renewable energy or the purchase of energy credits would work in conjunction with the County's existing Energy and Environmental Policy, specifically including:

1. How the costs and benefits of purchasing electricity from renewable energy sources compare to the costs and benefits of investing money in improving the energy efficiency of the County's operations;

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2. How the County's Energy and Environmental Team can effectively evaluate and implement on an ongoing basis the most cost effective and efficacious options for reducing the County's contribution to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;
3. What the County's Energy and Environmental Team's role is, and what it should be, in ensuring that the Energy and Environmental Policy is consistently implemented by all County Departments; and
4. What centralized mechanism, if any, exists in the County to track, coordinate, implement, monitor, and prioritize the variety of efforts currently underway to enhance the environmental sustainability of the County's operations, including but not limited to increasing our energy efficiency, combating global warming and air pollution, reducing the generation of solid waste, and improving water quality.

Supervisor Knabe accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky's amendment.

Further, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas made the following statement:

"The County of Los Angeles serves to gain numerous benefits by utilizing sources of renewable energy to offset our electrical demand. This will allow us to reduce our carbon emissions, meet our energy efficiency benchmark and provide a more sustainable and cost effective means of operation.

"However, the County also has an opportunity to take a leadership role by developing a comprehensive renewable energy program for our residents to ensure that the homes and businesses throughout the County have access to adequate resources, information and incentives to reduce their carbon footprint and make environmentally friendly and fiscally prudent investments.

"The County has already initiated a web-based Solar Map, scheduled to be made public this Spring, that will allow residents and local businesses to assess the energy savings and cost effectiveness of installing solar panels on their property. However, other opportunities ranging from community choice aggregation, home energy audits and financing of residential renewable energy projects are just some of the additional strategies that the County should consider as part of a holistic and comprehensive renewable energy program.

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“President-elect Obama has indicated intent to prioritize energy efficiency measures as a key component of an economic stimulus package. Los Angeles County can be at the forefront of partnering with the Federal government in the creation of green jobs to support solar and other renewable energy projects and must be prepared and proactive about capitalizing on this unique opportunity to fund a Renewable Energy Program.”

Therefore, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas made a suggestion to further amend Supervisor Knabe's motion to direct the Chief Executive Officer to:

1. In coordination with the Intergovernmental Relations Unit, incorporate a solar installation program as well as other appropriate renewable-energy and energy-efficiency proposals as part of our Economic Stimulus funding request;
2. With appropriate Departmental staff, report back to the Board by January 31, 2009 with an action plan for developing a Comprehensive Renewable Energy Program with the action plan to include recommendations on:
 - Timeframes for meeting key benchmarks (including proposal development, program establishment, and implementation); and
 - An outreach plan to incorporate community input from residents, developers, and other interested stakeholders; and
3. Report back to the Board with a comprehensive proposal for a Renewable Energy Program no later than April 1, 2009 with the proposal to include, but not be limited to:
 - A cost analysis, feasibility assessment and recommendations regarding constituent-focused initiatives to be included in the Program. The proposal should include an analysis of community choice aggregation, home energy audits, financing of residential renewable energy products, and other initiatives as deemed appropriate;
 - Policy recommendations for renewable projects on County property, including protocols for public-private partnerships, new construction, leased facilities, and existing buildings;

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- Identification and recommendations of existing best practices and opportunities to partner with other local jurisdictions;
- Benchmarks for the Board to consider adopting regarding conversion to a renewable energy portfolio to meet our electrical needs;
- Strategy for soliciting Federal Energy Block Grants funds to support a comprehensive Renewable Energy Program; and
- Additional recommendations for inclusion in our State and Federal legislative agenda.

Supervisor Knabe accepted Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' amendment.

Supervisor Knabe also amended his motion to direct the Chief Executive Officer to identify and coordinate all approved motions relative to improving the health of the environment and the related well being of County residents.

On motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) was directed to take the following actions:

1. Examine the practicality of Los Angeles County offsetting a minimum of 10% up to as much as 100% of our current annual electrical needs through the use of renewable energy with the research to include the viability of the County purchasing renewable energy credits and the use of renewable energy, which shifts the amount of conventional electricity generation required away from fuels like natural gas, coal and oil;
2. Report back to the Board within 90 days on the County's current annual energy usage and costs, along with options for the County to begin purchasing renewable energy;
3. Provide an analysis of how the use of renewable energy or the purchase of energy credits would work in conjunction with the County's existing Energy and Environmental Policy, specifically including:
 - How the costs and benefits of purchasing electricity from renewable energy sources compare to the costs and benefits of investing money in improving the energy efficiency of the County's operations;

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- How the County's Energy and Environmental Team can effectively evaluate and implement on an ongoing basis the most cost effective and efficacious options for reducing the County's contribution to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;
 - What the County's Energy and Environmental Team's role is, and what it should be, in ensuring that the Energy and Environmental Policy is consistently implemented by all County Departments; and
 - What centralized mechanism, if any, exists in the County to track, coordinate, implement, monitor, and prioritize the variety of efforts currently underway to enhance the environmental sustainability of the County's operations, including but not limited to increasing our energy efficiency, combating global warming and air pollution, reducing the generation of solid waste, and improving water quality;
4. In coordination with the Intergovernmental Relations Unit, incorporate a solar installation program as well as other appropriate renewable-energy and energy-efficiency proposals as part of our Economic Stimulus funding request;
 5. With appropriate Departmental staff, report back to the Board by January 31, 2009 with an action plan for developing a Comprehensive Renewable Energy Program with the action plan to include recommendations on:
 - Timeframes for meeting key benchmarks (including proposal development, program establishment, and implementation); and
 - An outreach plan to incorporate community input from residents, developers, and other interested stakeholders;
 6. Report back to the Board with a comprehensive proposal for a Renewable Energy Program no later than April 1, 2009 with the proposal to include, but not be limited to:
 - A cost analysis, feasibility assessment and recommendations regarding constituent-focused initiatives to be included in the Program. The proposal should include an analysis of community choice aggregation, home energy audits, financing of residential renewable energy products, and other initiatives as deemed appropriate;

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- Policy recommendations for renewable projects on County property, including protocols for public-private partnerships, new construction, leased facilities, and existing buildings;
 - Identification and recommendations of existing best practices and opportunities to partner with other local jurisdictions;
 - Benchmarks for the Board to consider adopting regarding conversion to a renewable energy portfolio to meet our electrical needs;
 - Strategy for soliciting Federal Energy Block Grants funds to support a comprehensive Renewable Energy Program; and
 - Additional recommendations for inclusion in our State and Federal legislative agenda; and
7. Identify and coordinate all approved motions relative to improving the health of the environment and the related well being of County residents.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Director of Internal Services
Director of Public Works